



Doc Carter, IT Specialist, ALTESS, works with the new MS Exchange® servers being installed to run e-mail programs.

equipment and software for use in their jobs. With integrity, accountability and reliability at the forefront, ALTESS is dedicated to safeguarding its entrusted responsibilities. ALTESS continues to adhere to the high standards established for the integration and

development of our software initiatives, operating procedures and, most importantly, our people. Excellent customer service drives our work efforts and ethics. Throughout the entire process, our focus is customer-centric service and support. ALTESS is working to achieve Capability Maturity Model Integrated Level II by FY05.

ALTESS' motto is *Custos Portae*, which reflects ALTESS' role as the gatekeeper of acquisition data. To be the guard (*custos*) or guardian of the gate (*portae*) for such a critical resource as acquisition enterprise data carries with it the responsibility to ensure the integrity, reliability, dependability and security of the resource.

ALTESS actively supports transformation and the Army Focus Areas by

providing the right systems and services at the right time. ALTESS' current and future strategic planning and business processes will ensure it stays abreast of current and future policies to support the best warfighters in the world — American Soldiers.

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## Next Generation Acquisition Information Management

Ronnie D. Jewell and Raymond S. Soroka



**The Acquisition Information Management (AIM) system has been the flagship product for Program Manager (PM) Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Enterprise Systems and Services (ALTESS) for the past 6 years. It provides integrated Web-based automation services to the acquisition community to support management, planning, budgeting and acquisition program execution. Its varied customer base comprises users from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, HQDA, Army Materiel Command, Chief Information Officer (CIO/G-6), program executive offices (PEOs) and PM offices.**

In 2002, AIM's role expanded to provide an enterprise solution for the acquisition community. A primary objective was to enable all community members to proactively manage, report and analyze all aspects of programs throughout their life cycles. The AIM System's core is a relational database environment composed of standardized data elements and strictly enforced data access and control mechanisms. These provide conformance to DOD-mandated

data standards and also allow each PM to retain ownership of program data while providing data access to higher levels of the Army acquisition community and data aggregation to support statutory reporting requirements. By significantly reducing the level of manual effort needed to perform administrative PM duties and to monitor and report program data through the acquisition chain, AIM enables PMs to concentrate resources on successfully

developing and fielding systems. The Army Acquisition Executive; the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Plans, Programs and Resources; and PEO Enterprise Information Systems are the functional proponents for AIM.

The current system is application-specific with an emphasis on HQDA reporting. It is an umbrella application for a suite of integrated, Web-based products that focus on program

management and financial support. It encompasses applications such as Monthly Acquisition Report; Monthly Acquisition Program Review; CIO Module; Smart Charts; Probability of Success; Defense Contract Management Agency Module, Planning and Programming Decision Support System; Web Army RDA (research, development and acquisition) Budget Update Computer System (WARBUCS); and Procurement and RDTE (research, development, test and evaluation) Forms. Other major ALTESS applications closely related to AIM are Past Performance Information Management System (PPIMS) and the Career Acquisition Personnel & Position Management Information System (CAPPMIS). The CAPPMIS suite comprises Workforce Management, Position Management, Acquisition Position List, Acquisition Career Record Brief, Individual Development Plan, Acquisition Lessons Learned Management System and Senior Rater Potential Evaluations.

## Future AIM

The broad goals of Next Generation (NextGen) AIM are:

- Establish an information technology infostructure that enables full interoperability and data integration across the acquisition enterprise that is consistent with DOD operational, architecture and security requirements.
- Enable data access through a single sign-on, Web-based portal linked to Army Knowledge Online (AKO).
- Reduce the number of independent systems and provide a consistent

integrated view of the Army's acquisition data.

- Support standardized enterprisewide processes across the PEO/PM community.
- Provide program management tools for all levels of management.
- Create a collaborative environment to support the acquisition community that will seamlessly integrate with, and smartly plug into, the future Army Advanced Collaborative Environment (ACE).

The Army Acquisition Executive; the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Plans, Programs and Resources; and PEO Enterprise Information Systems are the functional proponents for AIM.

NextGen AIM will be built on the foundation already established in AIM. It will follow the Software Development Methodology (SDM) currently in place at ALTESS. The SDM places a strong emphasis on requirements definition and management. The development team will work closely with the Army ACE team to allow NextGen AIM to plug into the future Army ACE with minimal retrofitting. The architecture will support a presentation

layer separate from the functional and database layers to make the transition to Army ACE transparent to end users.

NextGen AIM will be program-centric (applicationless) featuring an Executive Portfolio System (EPS) that will provide executives at all levels of acquisition management a graphical interface with drill-down capability and exception reporting in support of program oversight. The second priority will be to expand NextGen AIM to incorporate tools that support the day-to-day business processes in the PEO/PM community. It will capture real-time data in an event-driven environment allowing data to flow from the bottom up (PM to PEO

to HQDA) in support of drill-down analysis. The focus will be in program management with an emphasis on financial and contract management tools.

The third priority will be workforce management, emphasizing the integration of CAPPMIS with local acquisition workforce data and the Acquisition Database (ADB). The fourth priority will be to integrate PPIMS with the field contract management functionality. In addition, NextGen AIM will provide virtual integration of the ADB to AKO, Virtual Army Systems Acquisition Review Council (VASARC) and PEO/PM databases providing users seamless access to a variety of acquisition data through a single sign-on. It will be developed over a 3-year period, using a spiral, phased implementation approach.

## Transition Plan

The plan calls for an elite integrated product team made up of a few hand-picked, expert users from all levels of the Army acquisition community to assist the ALTESS development team in the study of business processes and analysis of commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) and government-off-the-shelf tools, both new and those currently used, to expedite the requirements-gathering process. As previously mentioned, the initial priority is to implement an EPS for the benefit of HQDA, PEOs and PMs. The idea is to put dynamic tools in the hands of the executive staff to allow ad hoc analysis and reporting without involving the ALTESS development staff. Now, dynamic, graphical tools can be loaded/ accessed on desktops and laptops, and the development staff can concentrate more on defining and developing day-to-day tools for the PEO/PM workforce. Realizing that time management is a significant driver, the ALTESS team will concentrate on defining the data elements that make up the 80-percent solution upfront. Standard data sets will be

## NextGen AIM (ADVICE) Transformation

ADB Internal and External Integration  
EPS Design and Development  
Contract and Financial Management  
Workforce Management  
PPIMS Integration

4th Qtr FY03 - 1st Qtr FY06  
4th Qtr FY03 - 1st Qtr FY06  
3rd Qtr FY04 - 1st Qtr FY06  
1st Qtr FY05 - 4th Qtr FY06  
3rd Qtr FY05 - 4th Qtr FY06

**Figure 1.**

defined and standard interface exchange requirements (IERs) established to begin capturing data electronically from the field as early as possible. This gives the PEO/PM community some immediate relief by eliminating duplicate data entry while simultaneously providing more information available to the EPS.

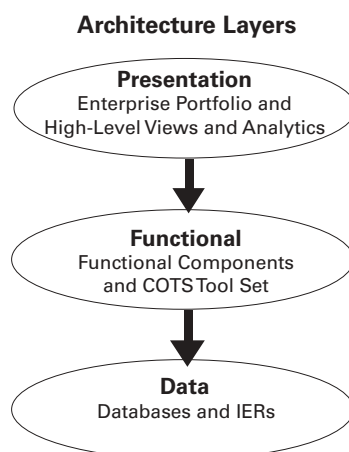
NextGen AIM will provide the PEO/PM community with viable alternatives to local legacy systems. By applying a "better-before-best" approach and using spiral development over the initial 3-year period, more and more capability will be developed incrementally for the PEO/PM community, allowing daily functionality for the local legacy systems to be absorbed into NextGen AIM. This is depicted in Figure 1. Once real-time data entry is transitioned to NextGen AIM, data can be exported back to the PEO/PM community using the standard IERs. This step is necessary to keep local legacy systems intact until the entire system may be absorbed into NextGen AIM and the host servers decommissioned in conjunction with Army Knowledge Management (AKM) goals.

### Enterprise Architecture and Data Goals

The NextGen AIM system architecture will be composed of the three layers annotated in Figure 2. The presentation layer will provide the user community one consistent interface with single sign-on capability through the AKO portal. Perspectives into the data will be tailored to the roles and the data access privileges of each user and will support high-level data summaries

with drill-down capability to lower-level detail in a graphical user interface.

Policies, processes, security and business rules will drive the functional layer and will define how the presentation layer interacts with the data layer. The data layer will use eXtensible Markup Language (XML) and Interface Exchange Requirements to build a network-centric data environment to integrate both internal and external databases with the ADB. This will include the integration of independent COTS-based products and corresponding databases such as those that are being deployed in support of the VASARC.



**Figure 2.**

The specific enterprise architecture and data goals follow:

- Implement the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology architecture requirements.
- Maintain compliance with the DOD architecture framework.

- Adhere to the many DOD and Army guidance policies including *Executive Order 13011*, the *Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996*, *Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 4630.5*, *Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4630.8*, *DoDD 8000.1*, *DoDD 8100.01*, *DoDD 5000.1*, *DoDI 5000.2* and *Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 3170.01C*.
- Ensure complete data integrity and enable smooth interchange between all data components within the enterprise.
- Align with the AKM Plan, AKO objectives and the to-be-defined Army ACE objectives.
- Provide data archival, warehousing and mining capabilities.
- Maintain an online integrated data dictionary that defines all data elements and is aligned with the Defense Data Dictionary System.

The new name for NextGen AIM is ADVICE (Acquisition Domain Virtual Integrated Collaborative Environment). ADVICE will be built on the current AIM infostructure over a 3-year period to develop an 80-percent enterprise solution for the acquisition community that will offer seamless integration into the future Army ACE.

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